

1851

1951

Centennial Jubilee



St. Michael's Parish

Elizabeth, Pennsylvania



Founded September 28, 1851

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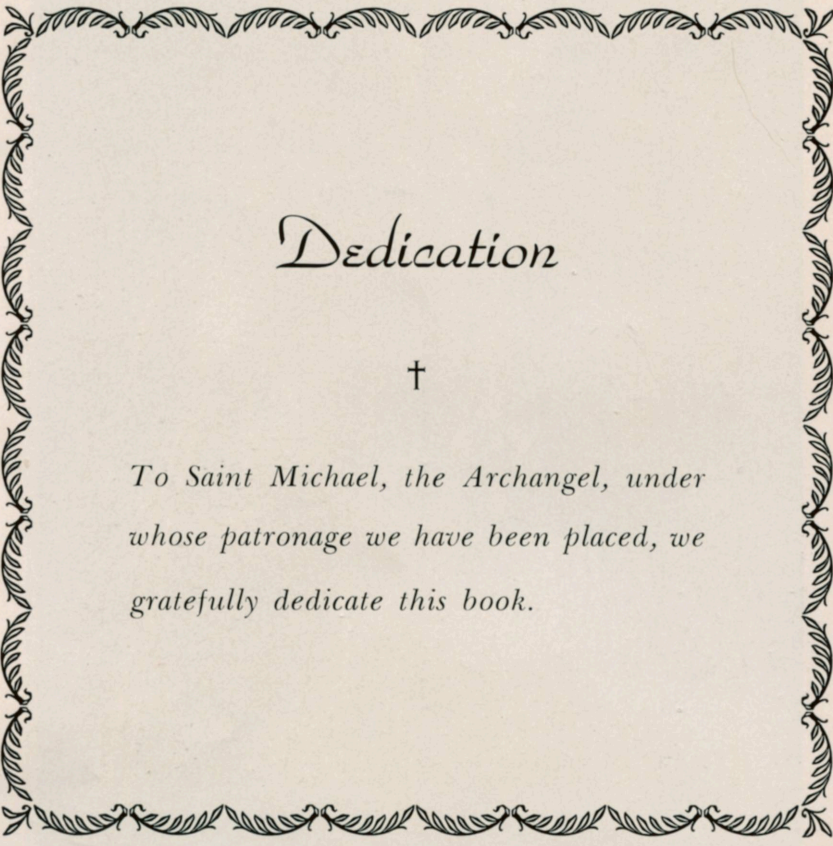


HIS HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII



THE MOST REVEREND JOHN FRANCIS DEARDEN, S.T.D.

Bishop of Pittsburgh



Dedication

†

*To Saint Michael, the Archangel, under
whose patronage we have been placed, we
gratefully dedicate this book.*



THE REVEREND THOMAS A. SULLIVAN
Present Pastor



THE REVEREND GEORGE J. BOCK

Assistant Pastor



THE PRESENT CHURCH — DEDICATED IN 1851

Centenary Program

Sunday, September 30, 1951

at 10:30 o'clock

SOLEMN PONTIFICAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING

Pontifcant.....THE MOST REVEREND JOHN F. DEARDEN, S.T.D.
Archpriest.....THE REVEREND THOMAS A. SULLIVAN
Deacons of Honor.....{THE REVEREND WALTER A. O'HARA, S.T.L.
 {THE REVEREND LEO S. WATTERSON
Deacon of the Mass.....THE REVEREND FRANCIS M. MCCARTER
Subdeacon of the Mass.....THE REVEREND FRANCIS B. FILIP
Masters of Ceremonies.....{THE REVEREND JOSEPH A. KOPECKY
 {THE REVEREND GEORGE J. BOCK
Preacher.....THE REVEREND GERVASE CHUTIS, O.S.B.

Sunday Evening, September 30, 1951

at 6:00 o'clock

DINNER AT HOTEL MAZUR

Glassport, Pa.

Toastmaster.....JOHN R. THORNTON
Speaker.....DANIEL M. HAMILL
Entertainment.....{THE FRANK GRECO FAMILY
 {ARTHUR W. KELLY

Monday, October 1, 1951

at 9 o'clock

HIGH MASS FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Celebrant.....REVEREND THOMAS A. SULLIVAN

A History
of
St. Michael's R. C. Church
Elizabeth, Pennsylvania



Compiled by
MARY A. RUBINO



PRESENT SANCTUARY



REAR VIEW OF CHURCH IN 1908

Background of the Region and The Town



Elizabeth is located on the Monongahela River, from which the region obtained its original name of "Monongahela Valley." To the Monongahela's navigable waters Elizabeth is indebted for her rapid industrial development. While there is evidence that the Monongahela Valley was inhabited prior to the advent of the whites, there were no Indians permanently settled here around the middle of the 18th Century when white settlement of the Valley began.

During the year 1753 white settlements sprang up in South-western Pennsylvania, later known as the Monongahela Country. These settlements were abandoned during the French and Indian War. Not until the late 60's was a permanent settlement begun, when in 1868 the treaty between the Iroquois and the British ceded the Western Pennsylvania territory to the whites.

In 1790, the section of land between the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers became known as "Elizabeth Township," with a population of 1,597 inhabitants, of which 21 were slaves.

Among those to whom land grants were given was a Scotchman named Donald Monroe. His land, which he called "Greenoch" extended from the present Lock No. 3 to the present Church Street, about 331½ acres. Three months later, in April of 1769, the land, which was to be the future site of Elizabeth, was transferred by deed to Aeneas Mackay, of Pittsburgh. After a long delay, however, the title became permanent when a patent was issued in 1787 to Samuel Mackay, Elizabeth Mackay Bayard, and her husband, Stephen Bayard. Elizabeth Mackay and her brother, Samuel, had inherited the land upon the marriage of their mother, widow of Colonel Aeneas Mackay.

Bayard and young Mackay immediately set up plans to lay out a town on the site formerly known as the "New Store." With the sudden death of Mackay in 1788, the development of the Town project rested solely with Colonel Stephen Bayard and his wife.

Colonel Bayard promoted the establishment of boat building in Elizabeth-Town, as it was then called, through advertising in the newspapers, and the boat building industry soon grew and flourished and became the chief occupation of Elizabeth-Town. The large shed used for boat building was between the present Water Street and Park Alley. In addition to his boat building activities, Bayard also

encouraged settlers to come to Elizabeth-Town by opening and operating a general store, a tavern, a hotel, and a ferry. Under its name of Elizabeth-Town, the settlement was soon a little cluster of log houses along Water and Market Streets and east and north of these. In 1794 it was the chief settlement on the river between Pittsburgh and Brownsville.

The steamboat building industry began in Elizabeth-Town in the years 1824 to 1826, and reached its height in the thirties, forties, and fifties. The end of the steamboat building era in Elizabeth came about 1870.

The industrial expansion which took place in the early 19th Century also resulted in an increase in population, and the extension of the Walker Plan became necessary in 1833, which now included the river bottom ground to the present southern boundary and the Town Hill section south of Bayard Street.

A move was made to incorporate the town as a borough and application to the State Legislature was made. The charter was granted April 2, 1834; the "Town" was dropped and the new borough was named Elizabeth. Two years later a sketch was published listing the many activities and businesses which flourished in Elizabeth; besides three boat-building yards, there were a saw mill, a tannery, two hotels, one inn, a ferry, three English Day Schools, seven merchants, three doctors, and many others.

The leading road from Pittsburgh to Uniontown passed this town and a law was passed to build a highway through Elizabeth and build a bridge across the Monongahela here.

A few years later, in 1842, the mining of coal for shipment began and the first mine with its tippie for shipment within Elizabeth was opened in 1859. Elizabeth played a leading part in the development of the coal trade in this region. A popular slogan at that time was, "Coal is King, and Elizabeth is his capital." Within eight miles of the center of town were eight of the largest mines in the district. Many of the mining businesses which flourished in later years were consolidated at the end of the 19th Century when the Monongahela River Consolidated Coal and Coke Company was formed. This company's holdings later passed into the hands of the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Company which is still in existence today.

In the years that followed, the coal deposits in and about Elizabeth have been gradually exhausted until the only coal to be mined locally is that which is consumed by local residents and concerns. And the only reminder we have today of two great industries which flourished here years ago is the Pittsburgh Consolidation Coal Company's Marine Ways, located on Church Street, where boats, which are now built elsewhere, are repaired so that they may tow their cargo up and down the Monongahela—the great river whose navigable waters have played an all-important part in the history of our Elizabeth.



FATHER J. C. FALLON

Former Pastor

1907-1920



FATHER M. A. LEEN

Former Pastor

1920-1948



FATHER F. B. FILIP
Former Assistant Pastor
1936-1943

History of St. Michael's Parish

1851 - 1951

Early Christian services in Southwestern Pennsylvania were conducted by Roman Catholic chaplains who accompanied French regiments of soldiers from Canada in early military movements. Soon after the establishment of Fort Duquesne on the site of the present Pittsburgh, a Catholic Mission was established at Brownsville. Although there were some Catholics settled in the area between Brownsville and Pittsburgh at the end of the 18th Century, there were not enough to justify the formation of a congregation until many years later.

Priests from Brownsville and Pittsburgh occasionally visited in the valley about Elizabeth and ministered to the spiritual wants of the people there, and at times they were ministered to by traveling missionaries going to Kentucky, who were delayed here awaiting building of a boat or a rise in the river. As time passed the number of Catholics increased and services were held for them in the old Robert C. Walker residence opposite the Odd Fellows Hall, by Father Gallagher. Later on, services were held at the home of William Lambert, which stood where the Methodist Church now stands.



PARISH HISTORY COMMITTEE

Mary Rubino, Chairman, C. V. Wiegel, Mrs. F. J. Malady.
Not Shown—Theresa Brennan, Mrs. Aileen Natale.

The first record of the formation of a congregation was in 1849, when the mission was visited by Rev. Nickolas Haeres, of St. Peter's Church, McKeesport, Pa. Soon thereafter, the building of a church was undertaken on a lot purchased May 5, 1851, by Rev. Michael O'Connor, then the first Bishop of the See of Pittsburgh, from John and Ann Walker. John S. Anderson did the wood work and John F. Richards, the mason work. Upon completion, the church was dedicated under the invocation of the Archangel St. Michael, on September 28, 1851. It was an unassuming brick structure about 60 feet in length and 35 feet in width, surmounted by a small belfry, and having a little sacristy attached to the rear; and it occupied a commanding position on the elevation in the back part of the town on Town Hill, on the corner of Fifth, Walnut, and Sixth Streets.

The congregation was placed under the care of the Brownsville priest who visited it usually one Sunday each month for a period of time not definitely known, due to the fact that no records were kept at St. Michael's until 1855, when a register of marriages and baptisms was begun at the church.

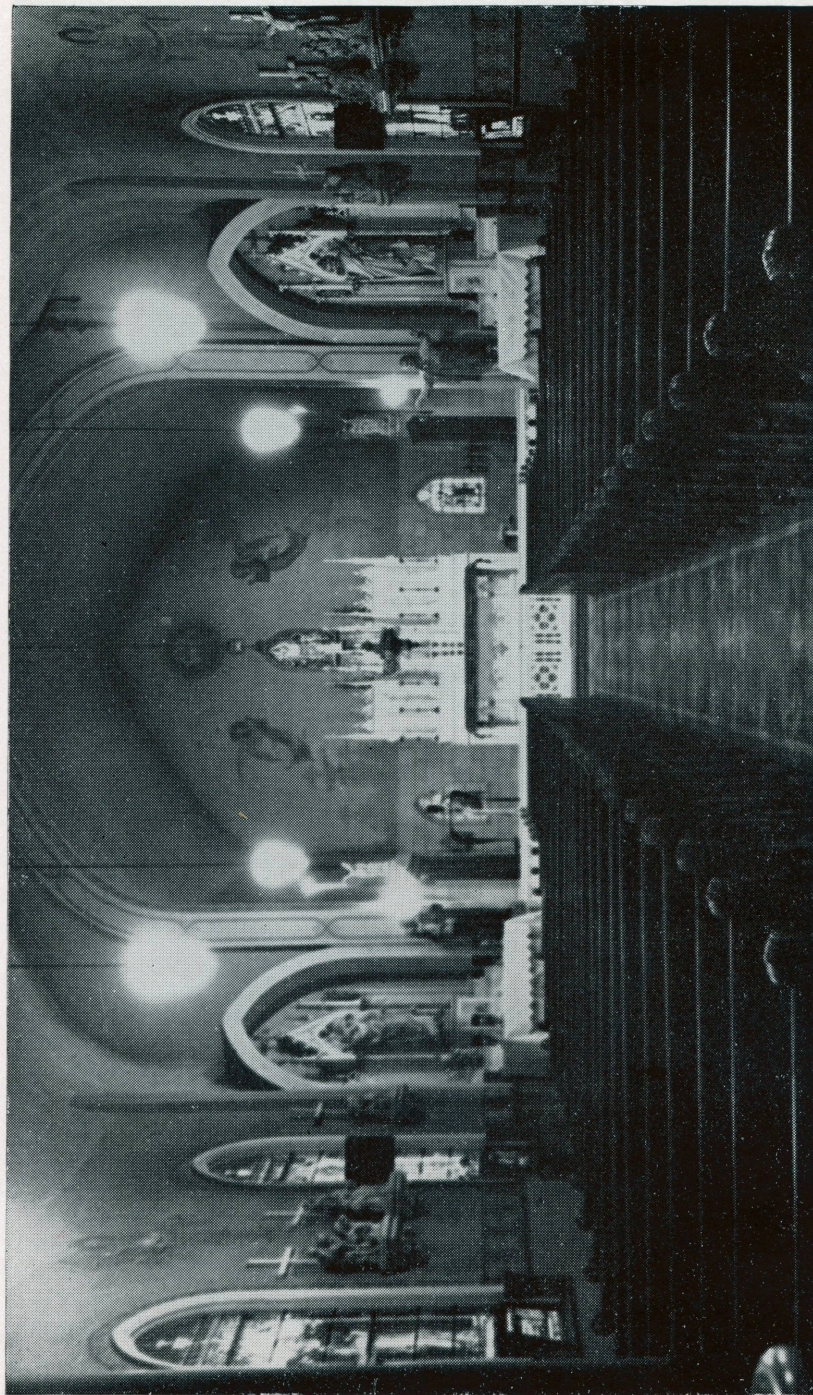
Records of the activities of the priests are very scant for these early years, but the Church Directory, published in the July 15, 1876, issue of *The Herald*, listed one Mass at 10:30 a.m. and Vespers at 3 p.m., with Rev. P. M. Garvey in charge.

Upon the baptismal and marriage records started in 1855 is based the following information concerning the pastors who stayed at St. Michael's. The first name that appears is that of Rev. Richard Phelan—from May 13 to October 13, 1855, who visited the Church from the Cathedral at Pittsburgh. He was born at Tralee, Ireland, January 1, 1828. He came to America in 1849, studied at St. Mary's, Baltimore, and was ordained at Pittsburgh May 4, 1854. Residing at the Cathedral, he visited the missions of the Lower Monongahela Valley, St. Michael's included. On August 2, 1885, Father Phelan became Co-adjutor Bishop of Pittsburgh, and upon the death of Bishop Tuigg, December 9, 1889, he succeeded to the title of Bishop of Pittsburgh. He died December 4, 1904.

Rev. Peter M. Garvey served St. Michael's from November 3, 1855 to July 1, 1860. He was born in Ireland early in July, 1826; completed his course at Bardstown, Kentucky; ordained at Cincinnati March 11, 1854, for the Diocese of Pittsburgh; labored on the mission in a number of places, mainly here, at St. John Gualbert's, Johnstown, and at Freeport, where he died October 22, 1881.

Rev. Thomas Quinn was resident pastor here from July 1, 1860 to November 1, 1861. Few particulars are known of his life.

Rev. Dennis Kearney served St. Michael's from November 30, 1861 to January 31, 1867. He was born in County Carlow, Ireland, May 1, 1827; completed his studies at Carlow College and was ordained there June 15, 1856, for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, where he arrived some three months later. He also served at St. Joseph's,



INTERIOR BEFORE RENOVATIONS — JANUARY, 1951



CHURCH COMMITTEE

Front Row—J. C. Smith, Father Thomas Sullivan, Father George Bock, J. F. LaFrankie.

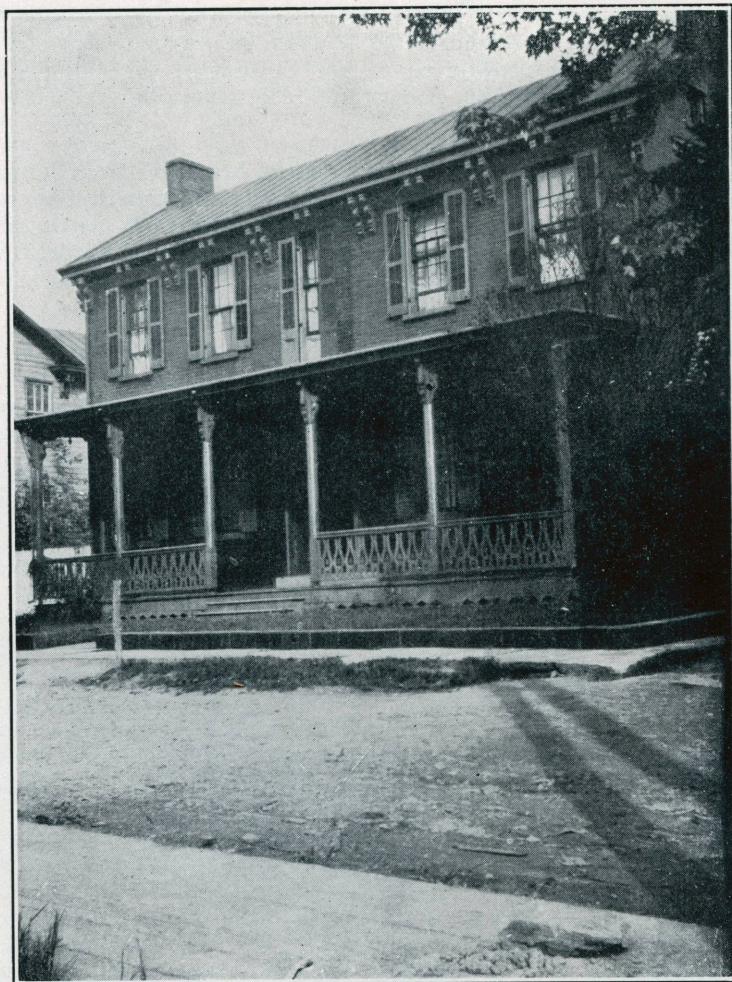
Second Row—W. H. Braum, Jr., C. M. Chortes, P. Fleischauer.

Insert—Joseph W. Ekaitis.

Sharpsburg, St. Paul's Cathedral, where he was rector and Chancellor, and St. Patrick's, Pittsburgh, where he died April 28, 1903.

Rev. William F. Hayes arrived at St. Michael's March 10, 1867, and remained until March 5, 1871. He was born in St. Bridgid's parish, Pittsburgh, August 19, 1841; completed his studies at the diocesan seminary, and was ordained December 17, 1866. He was pastor of Elizabeth and New Castle, then withdrew from the diocese about the beginning of February, 1879, to become the pastor of a church in Columbus and assistant editor of *The Catholic Columbian* until 1884; then became pastor of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Newark, in the same diocese; he died June 6, 1892.

Rev. Martin J. Brazil came to Elizabeth March 19, 1871, and stayed until October 20, 1872. He was born in Ireland about the year 1842; came to America, and entered St. Michael's Diocesan Seminary about 1861; was a classmate of Father Hayes; left the diocese a short time before the completion of his studies, and went to Dubuque, Iowa, where his uncle, Very Rev. John F. Brazil, was Vicar General; returned to the Diocese of Pittsburgh about the beginning of 1870, and served mainly here. He died at the Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, November 9, 1873.



PRESENT RECTORY — PURCHASED IN 1863

Rev. P. M. Garvey returned a second time December 1, 1872 and remained until October 20, 1877.

Rev. Francis McCourt served St. Michael's from December 16, 1877 until August 18, 1895. Father McCourt was born in Ireland about 1843 and after finishing his studies, he came to America and to the Diocese of Pittsburgh, and was ordained August 11, 1876. He served as assistant at St. John's, Altoona, and St. John Gualbert's, Johnstown, until December 1, 1877, when he was named pastor of Elizabeth; he was transferred to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Connellsville, August 20, 1895, where he died November 26, 1896.

Rev. Maurice McCarthy remained at St. Michael's from January 14, 1896 until April 10, 1907, when he was transferred at his own request to St. Clare's, Clairton, which he organized on the opposite side of the Monongahela, just a short distance below Elizabeth. He was born in Ireland April 24, 1867, ordained June 24, 1892. He was assistant at St. Mary's, New Castle; and pastor here.

In 1863, Father Dennis Kearney, who had been pastor of St. Michael's since 1861, bought a brick house near the church for his residence, and in 1876, he deeded this property to Bishop John Tuigg. Minor improvements have been made on this property from time to time, but from the outside, the rectory appears today almost as it did at the time of its purchase 88 years ago.

On June 4, 1864, Father Kearney also bought a small tract of land not far from the church to be used as a cemetery. Calvary Cemetery is still used for burials today.

His successor, Father William Hayes, built a little frame school house on the cemetery ground, and opened a school with a lay teacher; but the congregation was so small and scattered, that it soon became evident that the time had not yet come for such a move, and it was abandoned. The congregation maintained a steady, though slow growth. Stations were occasionally held at different mining centers along the river, until the beginning of the 20th Century, when the growth of the steel industry dotted the shores of the river with many new towns and congregations, making it possible for the priests at Elizabeth to devote full time to their activities at St. Michael's.

Rev. John C. Fallon arrived in Elizabeth April 4, 1907. He was born in the City of Cork, Ireland, May 19, 1877; he came to America at the age of 14 with his uncle, the late Very Rev. Stephen Wall, D.D., V.G.; he studied at the Holy Ghost College, Pittsburgh, St. Vincent's Beatty, and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, where he was ordained by Bishop Curtis, June 18, 1901. He was assistant at St. Peter's, McKeesport until he was appointed pastor of St. Michael's. Father Fallon remained here until May 1, 1920, when he left to become pastor of St. Canice, Knoxville, Pittsburgh, Pa., where he has remained since then.

Shortly after Father Fallon's arrival in 1907, a meeting of the parishioners was called to decide whether it would be necessary to build a new church or whether it would be worthwhile to enlarge the old church. Upon ascertaining that the walls and foundation were in excellent condition, the congregation decided that enlarging the church would save a great deal of money. Specifications and plans were prepared and work began during the summer, and was completed early in 1908. Besides adding thirty feet to the length of the church, the specifications included a brick vestibule, sacristies on each side, raising the walls and tower, replacing the flat ceiling with an arched one, putting on a slate roof, copper gutters and gold crosses, basement with lavatories and room for meeting purposes, gas and electric wiring, painting inside and out, wainscoting presses for cassocks and vestments, and installing a steam heating plant. The three altars were painted in gold and cream. The small graveyard in the back of the church was removed to make room for the addition.

People of the parish were very generous and donated many new furnishings for the church. The following donations are recorded:

Main Altar—Rev. C. A. McDermott.

Stations—Mr. and Mrs. John Paeps.



ALTAR BOYS — 1951

First Row—C. Soukavich, A. Volpe, R. Schick.

Second Row—A. Soukavich, C. Wiegel.

Third Row—R. Schick, R. LaFrankie, J. LaFrankie.

Fourth Row—A. Schick, J. Hester, J. Greco.

Altar Railing—Timothy Hester.

"St. Peter" Window—John Hester.

"Adoring Angels" Window—Margaret Hester.

"St. Paul" Window—David Burns.

Gold-plated Candlesticks on High Altar—Mrs. Isaac Kennedy.

"Good Shepherd" Window—In memory of Patrick and Bridget Maloney.

"Blessed Virgin" Window—In memory of John and Margaret Lambert.

"St. Michael" Window—Mr. and Mrs. John Paeps.

"St. John the Evangelist" Window—Mr. and Mrs. John Besen-theiner.

"St. Stephen" Window—In memory of Very Rev. S. Wall, D.D., V.G.

"St. Elizabeth" Window—In memory of Thomas and Mary Connelley.

"St. Catharine" Window—In memory of John and Mary Percival.

"St. Veronica" Window—In memory of William and Lydia Lambert.

Stained Glass Windows (4)

—In memory of Rev. Francis McCourt, a former pastor here.

—In memory of Souls in Purgatory.

—Children of parish.

—Miss Mary Mailey.

Sacristy Window—Patrick Hunt, an altar boy.

Sacristy Window—Francis McCarter, an altar boy then, today Father McCarter.

Altar of Our Lady—Mrs. William Hunt.

Statue of Our Blessed Mother—Miss Mollie Lynch.

Altar Linens and Sanctuary Carpet—Mrs. Christopher Teepe.

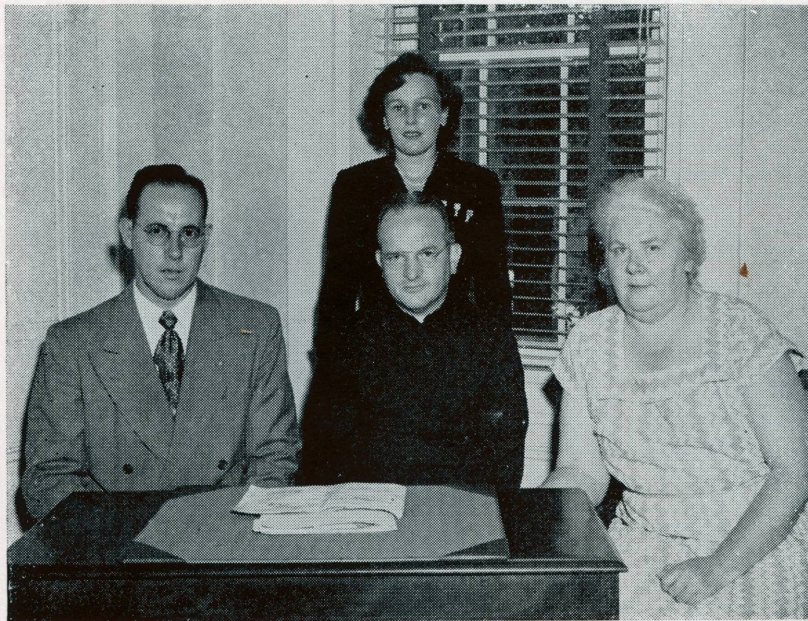
Other Donors—Mrs. Franzen, Mrs. Kassler, Mr. Francis McNeil, and John Faherty.

Proudly the 100 families, who now comprised St. Michael's parish, attended Mass in the beautiful newly decorated church. The parish continued its growth and expansion, and on April 22, 1911, Father Fallon arranged for the purchase of the lots next to the church, enabling the parish to own the entire square. A payment of \$3,300 was made for all of the lots, on which today stands the Church Hall. Standing on the lots, purchased from August Braum, were two buildings, one a brick structure and the other, a frame structure.

Members of Father Fallon's Church Committee were Francis McNeal, Dennis White, and Thomas Hunt. Altar boys who served during this time included Guy Carney, Francis McCarter, Joseph Lesky, Frank Hunt, Maurice McCarthy Hunt, Jerome Girt, Joseph Rubino, Peter Romanski, Earl Carney, John Barron, and William Rogers.

Father Fallon endeared himself to the hearts of his parishioners as he visited them, riding about the town and countryside on his bicycle and followed by his faithful dog "Rags." Usually he would take several boys with him and they would stop somewhere along the countryside to pray the rosary. Every other Sunday, Father Fallon started out on his bicycle to the outlying mining districts to collect the Sunday donations from those people who were too far away to come to Mass here. He himself went to Bunola every Sunday afternoon to teach the children. It is a known fact that he was so well liked that even some of the Protestant children in that district attended his classes.

Father Fallon encouraged social activities in the parish. He frequently made arrangements for boat excursions, parish picnics, and parish dances. Parish families would pack a picnic basket and board the excursion boat when it docked in Elizabeth to pick up passengers at the Market Street Wharf. Picnics were held at Walker's Orchard, located at the upper part of the present-day Walker Heights, and also at the Plains. Parish dances were also frequently held at Wylie's Hall, located on the Third Floor of the present Wylie Building.



JUBILEE FUND PROMOTION COMMITTEE

Seated—J. C. Smith, Father Thomas Sullivan, Mrs. C. J. Smith.

Standing—Mrs. Albert Parker

Not Shown—W. J. Kelly, chairman, Ray Hornfeck, Eugene Greco.

Also active in community affairs, Father Fallon was the main speaker at the first Flag Raising ceremony held in 1919, in honor of World War I veterans at the W. W. O'Neil home, the present Marraccini home on Fifth Street.

Several years before Father Fallon's departure from St. Michael's he bought, for \$3,500, a piece of property on Walker Road to be used as a cemetery when space at Calvary Cemetery became insufficient. Because of its inaccessibility, this property is not being used for burials at the present time.

Sadly the congregation watched Father Fallon leave St. Michael's on the 1st of May, 1920, to become pastor of St. Canice, Knoxville, Pittsburgh, where, on June 18, 1951, he celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a priest.

On May 1, 1920, Father Michael A. Leen took up his duties as pastor here. The son of the late Maurice and Mary Foran Leen, he was born in Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland, in 1878. He was ordained at All Hallows Seminary, Ireland, in 1905. Before coming to Elizabeth, he was assistant pastor of St. James Church, Wilkesburg, and St. Paul's Church, Butler, Pa. He continued the work of Father Fallon as he conducted Saturday classes for the children in Bunola. Classes were also later started for the children of Calamity Hollow and were conducted by Mrs. Florence Tortorice on Saturdays. Classes for the district children who lived within walking distance of the church were held after the 8:30 Mass each Sunday. Teachers included Mary Margaret Hunt, Rita Smith, Mary Smith, Rose Rubino, Pearl Hanrahan, Helen McClure, Madeline Campayno, Margaret Faherty, Dorothy Barron, Louise McClure, Mrs. John H. Smith, Elizabeth McKay, Mrs. Mary D. Volpe, and others whose names are not available at this time. For many years Sisters from Glassport conducted Saturday classes for the children.

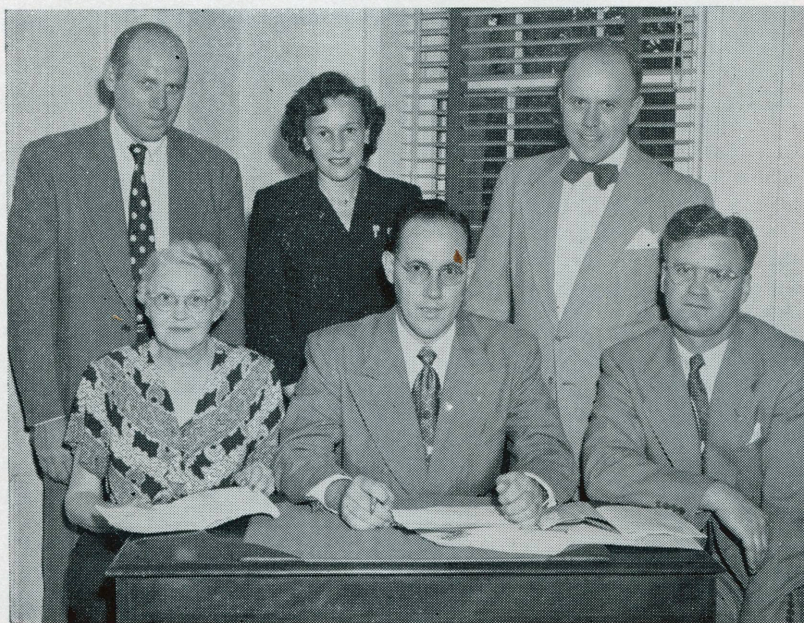
In September, 1924, Father Leen asked James McElhatten to organize a choir to sing High Mass. A choir of male and female voices was organized and members included Agnes Carney, Jennie Rubino, Jean McClure, Stella Beadling, Alice Beadling, Mrs. Madeline Campayno, Mrs. Anna Hunt, Rose Rubino, Mary Rubino, Mary Margaret Hunt, Frieda Natali, Margaret Hammaddock, Aileen Stidard, Emma McElravey, Helen Carney, Bob Wiegel, Regis Hunt, Sylvester Herman, Joseph Hunt, Dan Campayno, Clarence Weigel, Jerome Girt, and Gabriel Fritz. Mary Volpe was the organist, and Virginia Williamson the assistant, who later became organist. Their successors have been Noreen Braum and Mary Ann Korona, the present organist.

Mr. McElhatten's choir became one of the best-known choirs in the district as it traveled to various parishes to sing Sunday Mass for special occasions. Also on several occasions, the choir broadcast the Mass from Father Cox's Old St. Patrick's Church. Many local concerts were given for charitable purposes. Proceeds from various concerts were donated toward the purchase of the old pipe organ for the church, to help buy equipment for the playground, and to help

buy fire equipment for Elizabeth. The mixed choir was dissolved in later years when ladies' voices were banned from Catholic choirs in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Mr. McElhatten continued to direct the men's choir and later organized a boys' choir. Later on, Miss Braum organized and trained a girls' choir, and Leo Kelly is the present director of the men's choir.

Men who served on the Church Committee during Father Leen's stay here were Joseph Smith, John F. Reilly, Joseph Konwick, Ralph Smith, Charles J. Smith, Russell Piper, Joseph Ekaitis, Sr., the late Anthony F. Natale, Francis Volpe, and Adam Frost. Besides their regular church duties, these men undertook to raise funds for the children's Christmas treat by holding card parties. These men aided in building a float which was entered in the Float Parade commemorating the Centennial of the Borough of Elizabeth in 1934.

During the summer of 1937 Father Leen spent several months in his native Ireland recuperating from an illness which was to remain with him for the remainder of his life. Upon his return he was feted at a testimonial banquet, held in honor of his 17 years of service at St. Michael's. Arrangements for the banquet, which was attended by 350 persons, were made by the Woman's Club of the



JUBILEE BOOK ADVERTISING COMMITTEE

Seated—Mrs. Margaret Coughlin, J. C. Smith, chairman, Joseph Duffner.

Standing—Paul Fleischauer, Mrs. Albert Parker, W. H. Braum, Jr., vice-chairman.

Not Shown—Lyda Hunt, Mary Margaret Hunt, Margaret Flaherty, Mrs. Harry Wright.



GRADUATES — CLASS OF 1951

First Row—Irene Speroni, Kathleen Yuhas, Daniel Chaussinand, Janet Konwick, Janet Grilli.

Second Row—Shirley Demalon, Charles Piggford, Albert Godlesky, Oliva Dinello.

Third Row—Dora LaFrankie, Virginia Stragand, Delores Opatkiewicz.

Fourth Row—Mary Bernadowski, Delores Krasheski.

Top Row—David McCurrey, Joyce Piper, John O'Hara.

church. A purse was presented to Father Leen in appreciation of his service.

Following this time Father Leen was forced to spend much time away from his parish, due to his ill health, and during the years he was absent, his assistant, Father Francis B. Filip, who had been appointed here in 1936, administered parish affairs. Born in Pittsburgh on November 18, 1909, he attended St. Adalbert's Parochial School, South Side, Pittsburgh, St. Mary's High School and College in Orchard Lake, Michigan, SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, and St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Pa. He was ordained at St. Vincent's, June 14, 1936. His first appointment was Elizabeth, and, upon leaving Elizabeth in 1943, his appointments have included: assistant pastor at St. Joseph's, Everson, Pa. and at Mother of Good Counsel, Pittsburgh; pastor at St. Albert's, Palmer, Pa.; and his present appointment, pastor at SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, McKees Rocks, Pa.

During his stay, Father Filip arranged for the painting of the church, landscaping of the outside, and the fencing in of Calvary Cemetery. He was also instrumental in the organization of St.

Anne's Society and the Sodality, and took an active interest in these organizations.

A second renovation of the church took place during Father Leen's time, about 1932. Again the church was lengthened to make room for a growing congregation, and two transepts were inserted on either side of the church between the pews and the main altar. Extra pews were installed in the front of the church and in the transepts, the confessionals were moved up front into the transepts, and the baptismal font was moved to the back of the church.

Renovations were also made on the parish house. Forseeing the time when an assistant would be needed in Elizabeth Father Leen enlarged the house, adding another bedroom, bathroom, and a new kitchen. After these changes were made, the rectory contained four rooms downstairs and three bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs.

Although Father Leen's health rapidly declined during his later years, he refused to be relieved of his duties in the parish, and he was known to collapse at the altar on several occasions. His death came on February 4, 1948, at the age of 70. Father Leen will long be remembered by many people who were recipients of his acts of charity, for he was known for his charity toward the poor, which,



CORONATION OF THE MAY QUEEN — 1949

Kathleen Smith, Adele Jean Marraccini, Catherine Posa (Maid-of-honor), Queen
Nancy Wiegel, Mary McElhatten, Louise Humenik, Leona Zadroga, Joan
Cadwallader.



JUBILEE FUND COLLECTORS

First Row—C. V. Wiegel, J. C. Smith, Mrs. F. R. Palumbo, Mrs. Margaret Coughlin.

Second Row—C. J. Smith, Mrs. Eugene Grilli, Mrs. Primo Grilli.

Third Row—Mary Rubino, Mrs. Albert Parker, Alfred Schick.

Fourth Row—W. H. Braum, Jr.

for obvious reasons, was never made public. He will long be remembered also by people of the Elrama-Floreffe district for his foresight in purchasing the property and leaving \$5,000 for a chapel, forming the working nucleus which made possible the building of their church.

On February 26, 1948, less than a month following Father Leen's death, our present pastor, Rev. Thomas A. Sullivan, was appointed to St. Michael's. Son of the late Thomas A. Sullivan and Margaret Nixon Sullivan, Father Sullivan was born in Pittsburgh on July 1, 1902. He received his primary education at St. Rosalia's Grade School, and his high school training at Duquesne Preparatory School. He received his Bachelor of Arts Degree at Duquesne University in 1925. He was ordained by the Most Reverend Hugh C. Boyle at St. Vincent Seminary on July 16, 1929. Father Sullivan was assistant pastor of Holy Rosary Church, Homewood, Pittsburgh, from August 1, 1929, until August 29, 1946, when he was appointed pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Dunbar, Pa. He remained there until his appointment to Elizabeth in 1948.

The congregation first became acquainted with its new pastor at an Open House held at the rectory April 5, 1948, at which members of St. Anne Society were hostesses. Finding the boundaries of the parish so far-flung that the number of families in the parish was unknown, Father Sullivan decided to conduct a parish census. This enumeration showed 591 families and 1,916 souls in the parish, indicating an increase of almost 500 families in the past 40 years. Aiding Father Sullivan in the work of the parish are the members of the present Church Committee, which includes William H. Braum, Jr., Paul Fleischauer, John F. LaFrankie, Charles Chortes, Joseph W. Ekaitis, and Joseph C. Smith.

After a few months of looking about in the parish, Father decided that he had inherited a large task and he mentally "rolled up his sleeves" and set to work. His main interest lay with the young people and the children of the parish. Since the Baccalaureate services at the high school were of a religious nature and under protestant supervision, it was his belief that it would be better to hold Catholic Baccalaureate services in the church. Accordingly, the first Baccalaureate services were held May 16, 1948, for 25 graduates of the Class of 1948. The services have become an annual event, with the graduates receiving Holy Communion in a body at the 8:30 Mass and attending a Communion Breakfast served by the ladies of the St. Anne Society.

Father Sullivan felt that the children were not as far advanced in their religious instruction as they could be, due to the limited time afforded them in the past. When the problem was put before the parish, the people favored a plan to erect a small building which would be used in the summer for classes for the children and during the year, as a recreational hall for meetings and social activities. Through financial donations from the parishioners and voluntary labor by the men, a hall 80 feet by 26 feet was completed in July, 1948, at a cost of \$3,100. It was blessed on July 4 by Rt. Rev. Msgr. H. A. Carlin, pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Pittsburgh. The summer catechetical classes began on July 6, and were conducted by ten Sisters of Charity from Seton Hill, Greensburg. The summer school was carefully planned to give the children an opportunity to learn about their Faith and to make up in a small way for the lack of a parish school. The enrollment the first year was 350 children, and free bus transportation was provided for all children in outlying districts. The classes continue on Saturdays during the school months.

Convinced that the task of adequately caring for almost 2,000 souls was too big a job for one priest, Father applied for an assistant. His request was granted and the assistant, Reverend George J. Bock, arrived here July 22, 1948. Son of the late Peter Bock and Agnes Houlihan, Father Bock was born in Pittsburgh on April 20, 1916. He attended St. Mary's Grade School, 46th Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., Duquesne University Prep School, and Duquesne University. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1938, and was ordained at St. Vincent's Seminary on June 14, 1942. Father Bock's first appointment was as assistant pastor at Resurrection Church, Brookline,



CENTENNIAL BANQUET COMMITTEE

Seated—John Thornton, chairman.

Standing—Mary Rubino, Mrs. Loyal Boyer, Mrs. C. J. Smith, Mrs. F. R. Palumbo.

Not Shown—Ray Hornfeck, Mrs. Ray Hornfeck.

Pittsburgh, Pa. He was in turn assistant pastor at St. Charles, Donora, Pa., St. Mary's, Beaver Falls, Pa., St. Canice, Knoxville, Pa., and St. Anthony's, Monongahela, Pa., before his appointment to St. Michael's.

Among his first assignments were that of Spiritual Advisor to the Sodality of Our Lady, reorganized December 30, 1948, and Spiritual Advisor to the Holy Name Society, reorganized September 27, 1948. He is also in charge of training the altar boys. Father Bock's informal manner has won him many friends in the parish.

On May 8, 1949, the first "Coronation of the May Queen" was held with members of the Sodality as the participants. That same year a movie projector and screen were procured, making possible the showing of instructional and entertaining films in the Church Hall.

Anticipating the 100th Anniversary of St. Michael's, which would take place September 28, 1951, Father Sullivan organized a Promotion Committee, headed by William J. Kelly, in the fall of 1950. This hard-working interested group of parishioners began mailing letters to the congregation in an effort to stir up thought on some improvements and repairs to the church for the observance

of the anniversary. The first general meeting of parishioners was called for September 12, 1950, in the Church Hall.

It was suggested by some that the church be torn down and a new one erected; by others, that a combination school and church building be erected; there were those who argued that the basic structure was still solid and more substantial than even a new structure might be, and, therefore, it would be more practical to renovate entirely the interior of the church. The last plan was adopted, and ways and means of financing the project were considered. The group approved the suggestion that pledges be solicited from all working members of the parish, and it was decided to ask each working adult to pledge at least \$100. Thirty-five volunteer collectors began canvassing the parishioners Sunday, September 24, 1950. At this writing, \$21,452.55 has been collected.

Repairs were started after the New Year in 1951. While repairs were being made, the Church Hall was used as the temporary Church. One morning, early in January, a volunteer "wrecking" crew reported to the church to transfer all necessary furnishings to the Hall. Many wondered whether it would be possible to put sufficient pews in the small hall to accommodate the parish, and it



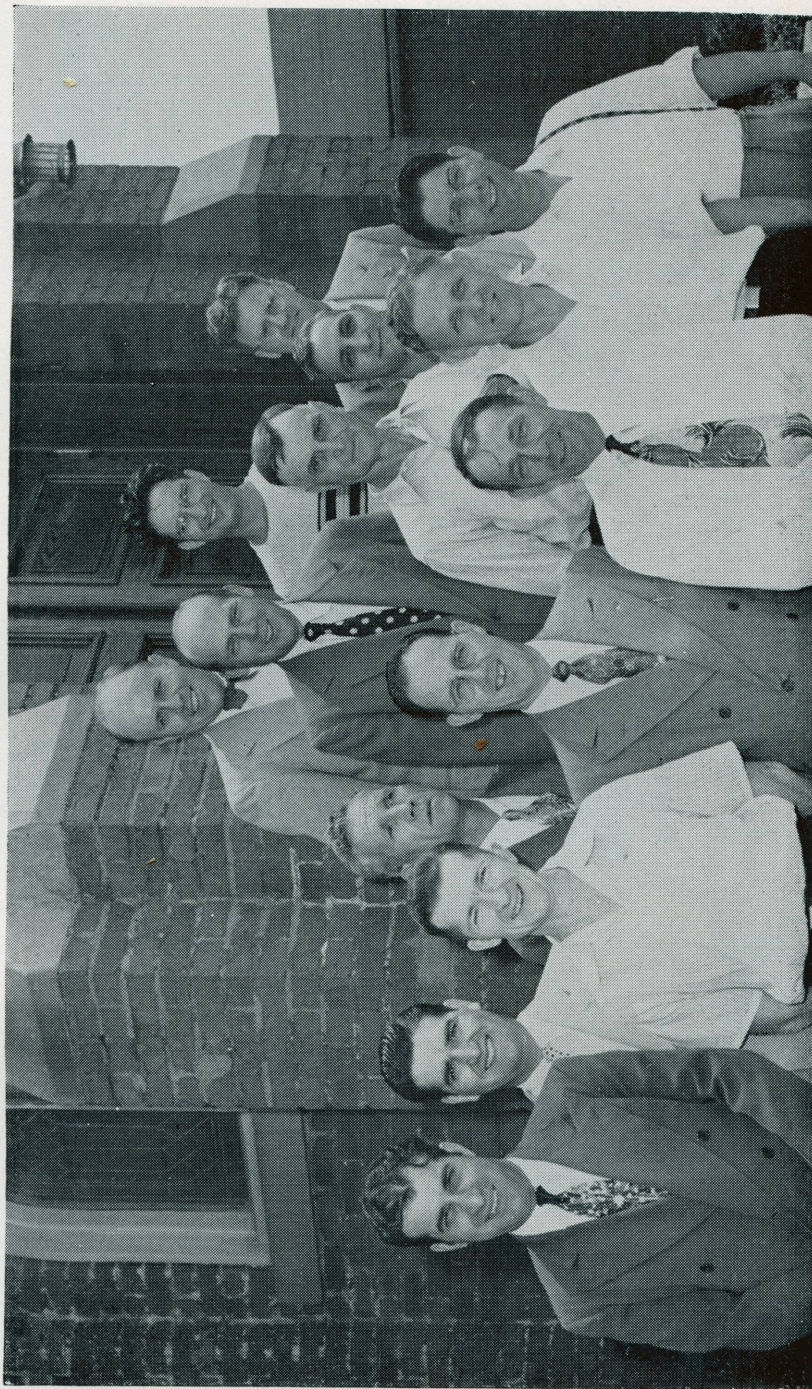
CHOIR — 1951

First Row—Dante Marraccini, Mary Ann Korona, Organist, Leo Kelly, Director.

Second Row—Robert LaFrankie, George Banavich.

Third Row—Paul Fleischauer, John F. LaFrankie

Not Shown—Regis Hunt, Maurice Hunt, Ronald Campayno, Bernard Reed, Paul Reed.



SOME OF MEN WHO DONATED THEIR SERVICES DURIN G RENOVATIONS

First Row—Dominick Calabro, Alfred Schick, Joseph Smith, Frank Kampert, John Krasheski, Louis Vidil.

Second Row—John F. LaFrankie, Charles Chortes, Paul Fleischauer, Stephen Christoff, Frank Palumbo.

Third Row—W. H. Braun, Eugene Christoff, Joseph Duffner.

seemed impossible to many to visualize an altar in a hall where cards had been played, and lunch had been eaten. But by evening, the pews were in place in the hall, a small altar was constructed, and two make-shift confessionals installed. And the recreation hall became the Church when the Blessed Sacrament was transferred to the building and placed in the portable Tabernacle. Father Sullivan came home from Pittsburgh one day with a portable "Pump" organ so that we could still have music at Mass. Although this was neither as comfortable, nor as large as the church, no real hardship was suffered by the parishioners.

Everything was removed from the inside of the church, including the plaster on the walls—nothing remained but the four bare brick walls. Most of the work was done by volunteer labor by men of the parish. The work continued through the Spring months and into the early Summer, and the lights often burned in the church until past midnight as men, who had worked eight hours on their job, worked until late at night at the church.

It was learned that a liturgical church is devoid of the ornate decoration which characterized the altars and other furnishings of our church. With regret, many parishioners watched our altars, of Gothic design, scrapped, to be replaced by plain liturgical altars. However, when the altars were finally completed, everyone agreed



SODALITY OF OUR LADY CENTRAL COUNCIL

Seated—Father George Bock, Spiritual Advisor; Marion Konwick.
Standing—Janet Grilli, Virginia LaFrankie.



ST. ANNE SOCIETY COMMUNION BREAKFAST — MAY, 1951

that they were beautiful. The altars and pews were designed and built by the Drechsler Brothers, members of the parish. Other renovations included new plaster on the walls; new floors in the church, the sanctuary, and the sacristies; new pews; new electrical wiring and fixtures; new confessionals, a new balcony and stairs; new floor covering; repairs to the windows; new doors, and new sidewalks all around the church. After much discussion, it was finally decided to scrap the old pipe organ, which was 65 years old, and to purchase a new electric Wurlitzer organ. These renovations were completed without the parish going into debt, a fact made possible by the men of the parish who donated their time and talents during the renovations.

In the spring of 1951 plans for the observance of the Centenary of St. Michael's got under way. His Excellency, Most Reverend John F. Dearden, Bishop of Pittsburgh, most graciously consented to celebrate Solemn Pontifical High Mass on Sunday, September 30, two days following the 100th Anniversary. Father Gervase Chutis, who entered the priesthood from St. Michael's, accepted an invitation to preach the sermon at the Mass on that day.

Several committees were appointed to complete plans for the observance. The History Committee, headed by Mary Rubino, was appointed to prepare a history of the parish. The Advertising Committee, headed by Joseph C. Smith, chairman, and William H. Braum, Jr., Vice-Chairman, was appointed to obtain advertisements for the Centennial Book. The Banquet Committee, with John

Thornton, as chairman, was appointed to make arrangements for a parish banquet on September 30. The committee decided to hold this affair at the Mazur Hotel, in Glassport. These committees met frequently during the summer to discuss plans for the observance of the Centenary of St. Michael's. Work on the church was nearing completion and in August the celebrating of Mass in the church was resumed.

September 28, 1951, brings to a close a Century of progress at St. Michael's:—a Century marked by the coming and going of priests who dedicated their lives to spreading the Catholic Faith and fostering a deep love of God among our parishioners; a Century characterized by three different renovations to the church to provide for an ever-increasing congregation; a Century marked by an expansion program which included the building of the St. Isaac Jogues Chapel in Elrama and the Church Hall adjacent to the church to accommodate the catechetical classes. This first Century was marked by the growth of a congregation at first small in number, and now totaling 1,916 souls. This first Century also brought the organization of three different societies designed to further the spiritual welfare of the parishioners.

To our pastor, Father Thomas Sullivan, and his assistant, Father George Bock, goes the credit for many of these improvements. Without their constant guidance and help, members of the congregation might not have become so acutely aware of the need for these changes—changes which would make the practice of their Faith a reality for many, and which would extend to the young people the opportunity for receiving, in small measure at least, religious instruction in their Faith.

One of Father Sullivan's main interests is the children of the parish. He has repeatedly stated that "a practical Catholic is an instructed Catholic" and he believes that without proper instruction of the children in their Faith, the parish cannot grow and prosper. His dream of the future is that there will some day be a parochial school for the children of St. Michael's. History has proven that any organization cannot live without moving ahead, without progressing. We have come to the end of a Century of progress and we can be certain that if the same interest and will to work, that has characterized past activities, are applied to the future, Father Sullivan's future dream for St. Michael's will become a reality, and will be recorded when the history of the second 100 years is written.

St. Michael's Missions



MONONGAHELA

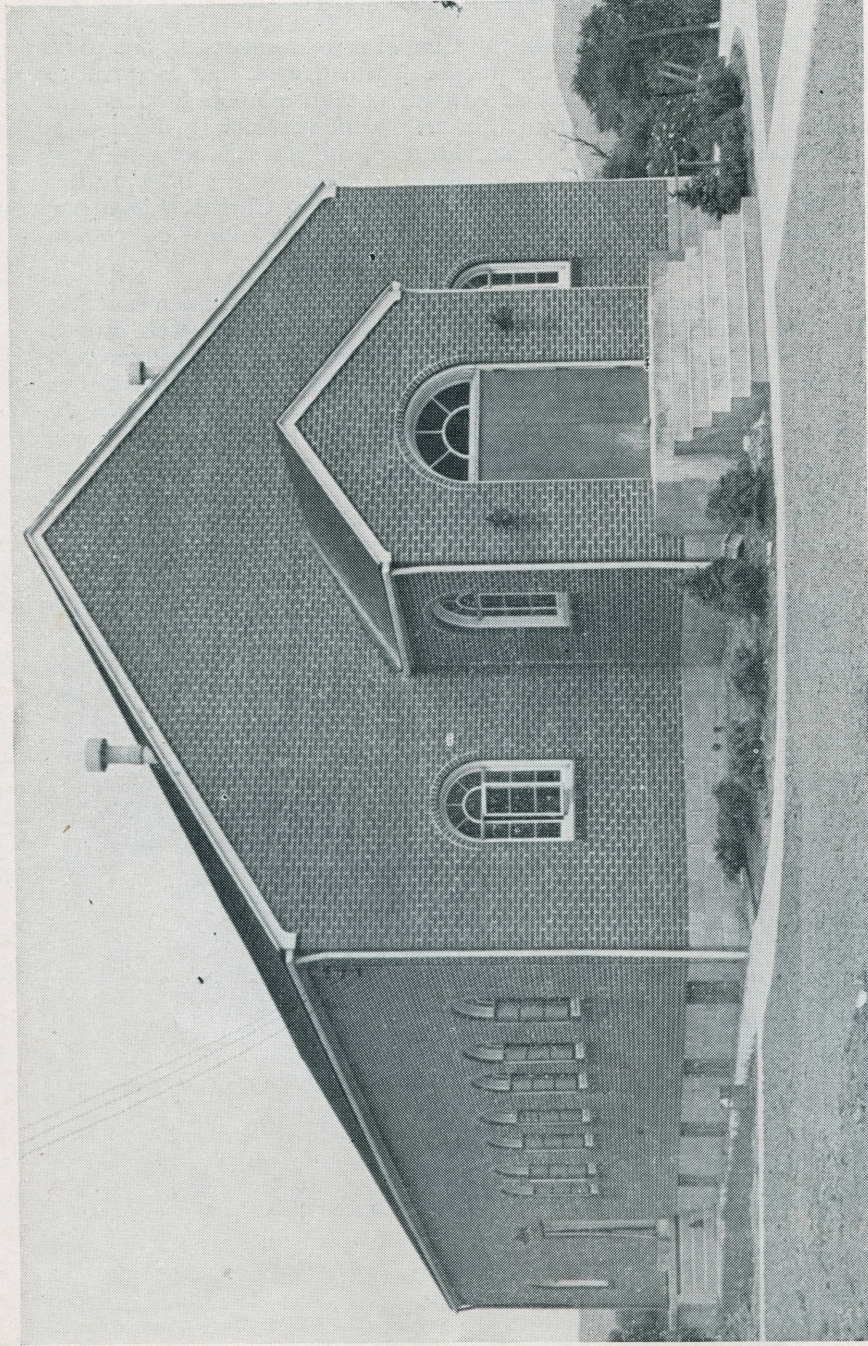
The most important out-mission of Elizabeth was Monongahela City, which was visited by resident priests in Elizabeth. In 1865, a church was built and dedicated under the title of the Transfiguration. In due time the congregation became independent, the first resident pastor being appointed in 1893.

GASTONVILLE

Another out-mission of St. Michael's was Gastonville, a small mining town a short distance from Pittsburgh. From the time a small church was built there in 1894, the parish was attended from Elizabeth. Priests had to travel to Pittsburgh in order to reach it by rail, and this parish was attended from Elizabeth until 1903, when it passed into other hands.

CLAIRTON

The Clairton mission, St. Clare's, was organized in 1895, when Father Francis McCourt went there from Elizabeth about once a month to say Mass. Masses were first celebrated in a private building on Railroad and Boundary Streets, in Blair. Later Masses were said on the second floor of the McBride Building on State Street. The corner stone for the church was laid July 19, 1903, and the church was dedicated on April 24, 1904, under the title of St. Clare. Father McCarthy attended the parish from Elizabeth from 1896 until the completion of the rectory in 1907, when he left Elizabeth to become resident pastor at St. Clare's.



ST. ISAAC JOGUES, ELRAMA, PA.

ELRAMA-FLOREFFE

The Elrama-Floreffe Mission Chapel is the most recent one to be erected. For many years the people of this district had to travel to Elizabeth to attend Mass, and it was not uncommon for many to travel by foot. Priests from Elizabeth went regularly to hold catechetical classes for the children. Through the years classes were held in various private homes and places of business. In 1948, Father Sullivan arranged through the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Pittsburgh, Pa., to obtain teachers for Sunday afternoon classes, which were held in the Drechsler Cabinet Shop.

When it was learned that the late Father M. A. Leen had left \$5,000 toward the building of a church in Elrama, plans were started for building a church on the lots which the late Father Leen had wisely purchased while he was pastor of St. Michael's. Ground was broken for the new church May 9, 1949, and work continued through the summer of 1949 and the winter of 1950. The church was built entirely by voluntary work done by people from the Elrama-Floreffe district and from Elizabeth, and was financed through voluntary contributions and fund-raising activities. The church was dedicated on July 23, 1950, by His Excellency, Most Reverend John Francis Dearden, Coadjutor Bishop of Pittsburgh, and placed under the patronage of Saint Isaac Jogues. At the present time, one Mass is said each Sunday by Father Sullivan or Father Bock.

This energetic congregation is looking forward to the day when it will be able to break away from its Mother Church and will become an independent parish, with a resident pastor.



Organizations of St. Michael's



THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

The Holy Name Society is a Confraternity of the Catholic Church, whose primary purpose it is to promote love, honor and respect for the Most Holy Name of Jesus. It was established in 1274 by Blessed John of Vercelli.

It is believed that with the establishment of St. Michael's Church in 1851, the Holy Name Society also originated, although there are no official records of minutes or accounts of activities usually conducted by a Holy Name Society.

The first record of a meeting in this parish was on March 16, 1932, when Frank Carney was elected the first president. There were only five men present at this first gathering, and one year later, the enrollment had increased to 150, the highest number ever



OFFICERS OF THE HOLY NAME SOCIETY

First Row—John F. LaFrankie, President; J. C. Smith, Secretary; Father George Bock, Spiritual Advisor; Joseph Duffner, W. H. Braum, Jr., Vice-President.
Second Row—Lawrence Stragand, Treasurer; John Krasheski, C. J. Smith.

enrolled. Following Mr. Carney as president were Russell Piper (1933-1936); Charles J. Smith (1937-1941); John Kish (1942-1943); Anthony F. Natale (1943-1949); and John LaFrankie, who is the present president.

The Holy Name Society was active during the period from 1932 until the advent of World War II with such programs as the Christmas treat for the parish children, aiding the various orphan homes, visiting the sick and poor, and the promotion of the church itself.

Shortly after the close of World War II, under the leadership of Mr. Natale and Father George Bock, the new Spiritual Advisor, the reorganization of the Holy Name took place at a meeting held on September 27, 1948, with 25 men present. Since this meeting, the Holy Name has been growing until the membership again stands at 150, and enthusiasm has increased to such a degree that it is certain that a strong society will be maintained in our parish.

In the past few years the Holy Name has conducted various programs for the propagation of faith, sent over 100 members to the Eucharistic Rally last year, aided in the construction of the Elrama Mission, aided in the repairing of our church, held programs and events to promote a better understanding among the parishioners, and initiated the weekly Saturday Rosary.

The men of our parish are to be commended for the fine example they are showing by establishing their Holy Name Society as a strong organization devoted to the adoration of the name of Jesus and for the making of better Catholic men.



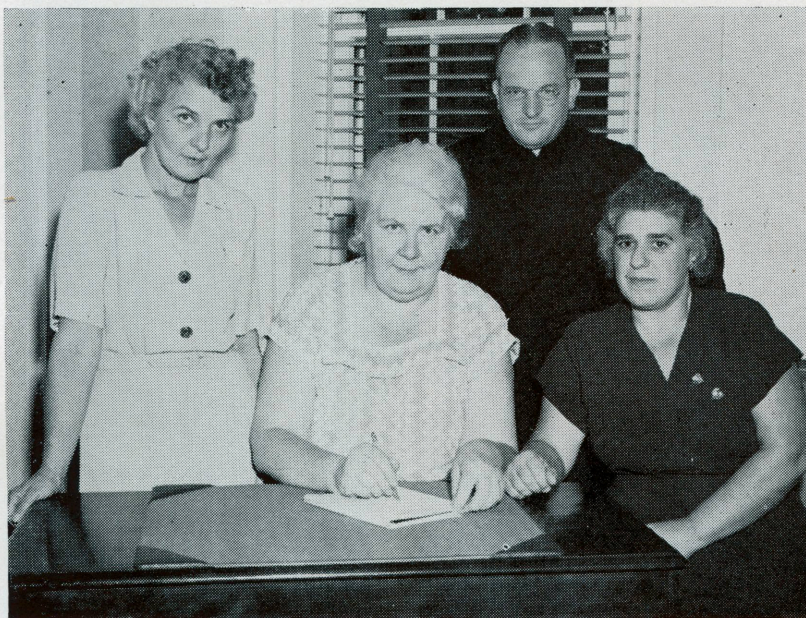
HOLY NAME COMMUNION BREAKFAST — JULY, 1951

THE ST. ANNE SOCIETY

The St. Anne Society was organized in March, 1939, for the purpose of having all married women of the parish receive Holy Communion in a body on the first Sunday of each month. Father Francis B. Filip took an active interest in the activities of the group during his stay here as assistant pastor.

When organized, this society consisted of 67 members—today the group totals well over 100 members. The first group of officers to serve the society were: President, Mrs. C. J. Smith; Secretary, Mrs. Eliza Hanrahan; and Treasurer, Mrs. C. P. Stidard. Present officers are: President, Mrs. C. J. Smith; Vice-President, Mrs. Joseph Bernosky; Secretary, Mrs. F. R. Palumbo; and Treasurer, Mrs. John D. Cox. Father Thomas Sullivan is spiritual advisor of the society, and works closely with the group attending all of their meetings.

Since its organization, St. Anne Society has engaged in numerous activities to raise funds for various needs of the church, such as altar linens, vestments, and flowers for the altar. Funds to purchase the fence surrounding Calvary Cemetery were donated by St. Anne's and recently a suite of furniture was given for the rectory. For several years, the group has sponsored weekly Card Party Socials,



OFFICERS OF ST. ANNE SOCIETY

Seated—Mrs. C. J. Smith, President; Mrs. F. R. Palumbo, Secretary.

Standing—Mrs. Joseph Bernosky, Vice-President; Father Thomas Sullivan, Spiritual Advisor.

Not Shown—Mrs. John D. Cox, Treasurer.

proceeds of which have been donated for the purchase of card tables, chairs, and other furnishings for the Church Hall. Several projects were sponsored for the benefit of St. Isaac Jogues's Chapel. However, the thing which its members will most proudly remember in the future is that the new altar for the renovated church was donated by them. The work of this group also consists of contributions to charity and participation in civic activities, of which the latest is aiding with the Old Home Week Observance.

The Weekly Block Rosary, which has been gaining wide popularity in many surrounding communities, has been originated in Elizabeth by St. Anne's. Meetings are held monthly and communion Breakfasts are held several times annually. All married women of the parish are invited to become members.

THE SODALITY OF OUR LADY OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Sodality of Our Lady of the Assumption is an organization for unmarried Catholic women, the purpose of which is to foster in its members adoration, reverence and filial love toward the Blessed Virgin Mary, and thereby assist them in becoming good Catholics, bent upon sanctifying themselves and their neighbors. The Sodality was organized for Catholic action, to increase the personal holiness of its members and to train them in charitable work for others.

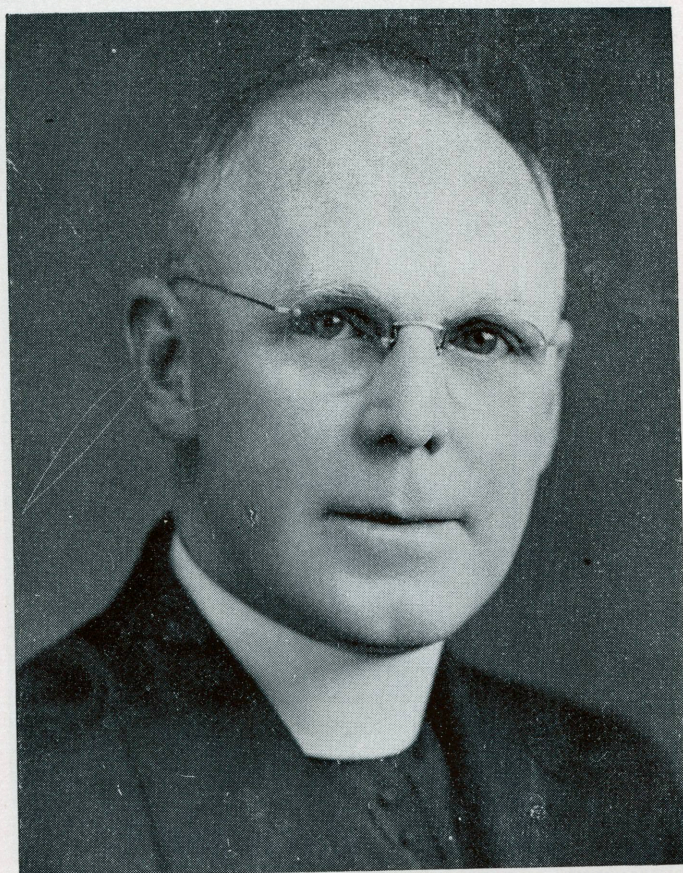
It is believed that a Sodality existed at St. Michael's in the early 1900's; however, lack of records makes the furnishing of information impossible. The first record of the organization of a Sodality was in 1938, when it was chartered under the invocation of St. Bernadette on May 25, with Father Francis B. Filip as the Spiritual Advisor. This Sodality was an active group for a number of years, but there is also no record of their activities.

The Sodality was reorganized December 30, 1948, with Father George Bock as its Spiritual Advisor. The first officers were Mary Rubino, Prefect; Leona Zadroga, Vice-prefect; Rose Marie Ryan, Secretary; and Mary McElhatten, Treasurer. The following year Lillian Dandoy served as Prefect, and Marilyn Smith is Prefect at the present time.

Sodality standing committees are Eucharistic, Membership, Publicity, Social, and Catholic Truth. These committees have initiated a program of fund-raising activities which has made possible the purchase of some furnishings for the Church Hall and the purchase and stocking of the pamphlet rack which stands in the back of the church. A circulating library of Catholic literature was begun and all members are urged to read one book each month.

The Coronation of the May Queen has become an annual activity of the Sodality, although it was impossible to hold the Coronation this year due to the renovating of the church. Nancy Wiegel and Kathleen Smith were elected queens the first and second years respectively.

Meetings are held monthly and the members receive Holy Communion on the third Sunday of each month. The officers are interested in increasing the membership of the Sodality—membership is open to all unmarried women of the parish.



REVEREND FRANCIS M. McCARTER

Father Francis McCarter was born in Elizabeth July 27, 1894, the son of Michael McCarter and Katherine McKane. He attended public school here until 1908. He left Elizabeth to attend St. Vincent's in 1908 and remained until 1918. His appointments include assistant pastor at Holy Cross, Southside, Pittsburgh, 1919 to 1922; assistant at St. Peter's, Northside, Pittsburgh, 1922 to 1923; assistant at St. Mary of the Mount, 1923 to 1936; pastor at St. Luke's, Bentleyville, Pa., from 1936 to 1941; and pastor at St. Mary's, New Castle, Pa., from 1941 until now.



REVEREND GERVASE CHUTIS, O.S.B.

Born in Vilna, Poland, February 26, 1904, the son of the late Martin Chutis and Domitilla Zalewska, Father Gervase came to America at the age of two. He attended Grade School near Lock No. 3 and later in Elizabeth, where he resided with his family until he entered the priesthood. In 1918 he began his studies at St. Vincent Prep School and College. He entered the Novitiate at St. Vincent Archabbey on July 14, 1925; he was professed July 11, 1926 and was ordained by the late Bishop Boyle on June 19, 1932, celebrating his First Solemn High Mass in St. Michael's Church on June 26, 1932. In 1928 he obtained his A. B. degree and later obtained a Master of Arts degree in Sociology at Notre Dame. He continued post-graduate work at the University of Columbia, New York.

Since 1938, he has been a Professor of Sociology at St. Vincent College and Seminary, and also a member of the teaching staff of Latrobe Hospital. Father Gervase's appointments include those of pastor of St. Sylvester Church, Slickville, Pa., from 1944 to 1950 and pastor of Holy Family Church, Seward, Pa., from 1950 to the present.



SISTER ELEANORE DE ST. ROSE
(Little Sister of the Poor)

Born Harriett Weddel Hunt, Sister Eleanore is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Hunt. Entering the convent from St. Michael's parish, she entered the Little Sisters of the Poor Convent, Northside, Pittsburgh, Pa., on December 4, 1913, and in 1916, made her first vows at Long Island, New York. From there she was sent to Boston and New York, and in April, 1925, made her final vows in Britany, France. Sister Eleanore returned to America in July, 1926, where her entire life has been spent caring for the poor and the aged in Indianapolis, Indiana, Richmond, Virginia, and Wilmington, Delaware, where she now resides.



SISTER MARIE JOAN

Born Joan Marie Connell, Sister Marie Joan is the daughter of Richard Connell and Marie Monahan. She was born in Pittsburgh on February 15, 1931 and moved to Elizabeth about 1940. She attended Elizabeth Public School for two years, and St. Cecelia's, Glassport, for three years. She attended St. Joseph's Academy, Greensburg, Pa., and her college education was obtained at Seton Hill College, Columbia University, and the University of Detroit. Sister entered the Sisters of Charity at Greensburg on September 8, 1949, and was given the name of Sister Marie Joan.

Parish Notes



Reverend L. A. Lambert was the first known person to enter the priesthood from St. Michael's parish. He left Elizabeth to enter St. Vincent's in 1853, two years following the dedication of the church. Little is known of his life following that time. Records show, however, that he and John Blaine were given the honor of being appointed altar boys to serve at the dedication Mass on September 28, 1851. The home of Father Lambert's father was one of the homes in which Mass was said before the church was built.



Brother Aloysius Demer, O.S.B. a brother at St. Vincent Archabbey, was a member of St. Michael's parish from 1883 to 1887. His family moved from the parish, but returned in 1890. In 1900, he entered St. Vincent Archabbey as a postulant for the brotherhood. He will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of his Profession of Perpetual Vows on October 6, 1951. He has been the College porter for many years and is widely known to the frequent visitors to St. Vincent's.



Monsignor Charles Demer, who was born in 1868 and died in 1946, lived in St. Michael's parish from 1883 to 1887. After an absence of four years he returned to Elizabeth. He entered St. Vincent College during Father McCourt's stay at St. Michael's. The late Monsignor Demer served two years in the Pittsburgh Diocese, one year in the Altoona area and served for 51 years in the Diocese of Covington, where he was raised to the dignity of a Monsignor in 1936.

Parish Notes



FIRST BAPTISM

The first baptism recorded in St. Michael's was the baptism on May 13, 1855, of Thomas Smith, born of Thomas Smith and Mary Walsh, of Limetown, Pa. Sponsors were James Galligan and Eleanor Gallagher. He was baptized by Father Richard Phelan.

* * * *

FIRST BURIAL

A Record of Interments in Calvary Cemetery, Elizabeth, Pa., shows the first person buried there to be Margaret McMahon, on February 16, 1864. She was 73 years of age at the time of her death.

* * * *

FIRST MARRIAGE

In St. Michael's Matrimonial Book, the first marriage recorded was the marriage, by Father Peter M. Garvey, of William McClure and Mary Heffernan.

* * * *

RETREATS

Men who frequently have made retreats at St. Vincent's during their lifetime are John Kraskeski, Edward Bernarding, Anthony Frost, James McElhatten, the late John Bartinikis, and the late Frank Carney.

* * * *

ORGANISTS

Organists who have served St. Michael's are Cornelia Tepe, Julia Hunt, Margaret Faherty, Mary Volpe, Virginia Williamson, Noreen Braum, and Mary Ann Korona.

Parish Statistics Gathered from Annual Reports
1914 - 1950

Year	Reserve	Fund	Cash Receipts	Families	Souls	Baptisms	
						Marriages	Deaths
1914	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5,160.36		Not Rec.	1,000	21	131
1915	2,500.00*	5,347.92		Not Rec.	1,000	6	119
1916	-----	5,371.86		Not Rec.	1,070	18	119
1917	-----	6,309.39		150	1,082	9	112
1918	1,500.00	7,240.71		175	1,300	9	103
1919	4,500.00	7,696.90		250	1,250	10	89
1920	4,588.97	4,080.09		228	1,118	8	88
1921	7,865.47	6,416.09		210	1,260	9	77
1922	8,632.49	5,751.37		210	1,260	12	64
1923	11,027.79	6,798.97		209	1,260	9	76
1924	13,906.55	9,047.23		200	1,200	8	61
1925	16,580.49	7,666.85		200	1,200	14	51
1926	17,268.24	7,842.44		190	1,100	5	54
1927	18,499.79	7,132.56		150	900	6	64
1928	19,543.11	7,150.84		149	900	10	44
1929	20,349.81	7,732.65		151	906	12	46
1930	22,327.55	7,322.81		160	960	13	48
1931	24,253.93	6,902.72		165	965	9	57
1932	18,753.93	9,586.42		Not Rec.	Not Rec.	12	42
1933	Annual Report Missing						
1934	17,722.49	4,553.84		170	900	15	38
1935	18,218.72	4,530.78		170	900	30	56
1936	18,218.72	4,793.55		185	980	12	57
1937	17,587.57	6,403.19		Not Rec.	Not Rec.	19	49
1938	15,562.25	7,396.62		181	987	7	52
1939	15,459.09	6,371.07		192	1,007	18	68
1940	15,369.67	7,119.33		195	1,025	31	52
1941	15,508.24	7,440.20		206	1,055	22	68
1942	16,679.74	14,916.83		230	1,059	24	71
1943	16,731.07	8,509.62		240	1,100	16	71
1944	21,035.87	9,961.08		250	1,100	14	40
1945	24,254.58	10,377.04		250	1,100	18	46
1946	24,421.47	11,976.00		250	1,100	39	67
1947	28,720.67	12,377.52		255	1,100	28	85
1948	29,030.17	18,723.05		450	1,759	20	72
1949	29,444.29	39,236.49		453	1,765	24	86
1950	30,000.00	32,927.33**		591	1,916	12	94
		5,699.50***					

* Deficit recorded in 1915

** St. Michael's

*** St. Isaac Jogues

CONTRIBUTORS



St. Anne Society	\$1300.00	Frost, Leonard	100.00
Favro, Mrs. Marianna	500.00	Gaublomme, Louis	100.00
Marraccini, Mrs. Lucy	500.00	Gogoel,	
Flynn, Mr. & Mrs. John J.	200.00	Mr. & Mrs. Michael J., Jr....	100.00
Frost, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony	200.00	Greco, Mr. & Mrs. Frank	100.00
Marraccini, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene ..	150.00	Hamill, Mrs. Cecelia	100.00
Kelly, Mr. & Mrs. W. J.	140.00	Hornfeck, Mr. & Mrs. Jos. C....	100.00
Konwick, Mr. & Mrs. Jos. W.	120.00	Hornfeck, Mr. & Mrs. Ray J....	100.00
In Memory of Father Leen and		Hotkevicz, Mrs. John	100.00
Deceased Altar Boys	100.00	Ignatius, Mr. & Mrs. Jos. C....	100.00
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Bartolomeo, Adell	100.00	Kassler, J. Fred	100.00
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